

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Noël VANDEMAELE et al.  
Title: WELDED MICROFILTER TUBE COMPRISING SINTERED FIBERS  
Appl. No.: Unassigned  
Filing Date: 03/07/2002  
Examiner: Unassigned  
Art Unit: Unassigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §1.56**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

**TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR §1.491.

**RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

The foregoing documents were cited in the International Search Report in the Applicants' International Application PCT/EP00/06985. A copy of the International Search Report setting forth the portion of each reference considered relevant by the Examiner is attached.

Copies of the documents are not being provided since copies should have been provided directly by WIPO under an exchange program between the PTO, the EPO and the JPO.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
Glenn Law  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 34,371

Date: March 7, 2002

FOLEY & LARDNER  
Customer Number: 22428



22428

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Telephone: (202) 672-5426

Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Form PTO-1449 (MODIFIED)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 016782-0245	SERIAL NO. Unassigned
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b>  (Use several sheets if necessary)		APPLICANT Noel VANDEMAELE et al.	
		FILING DATE 03/07/2002	GROUP ART UNIT Unassigned

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		3,705,021	Dec. 5, 1972	Sundberg et al.			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
		0 553 637	Aug. 4, 1993	EPO				
		1 287 406	July 30, 1962	France				

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**


EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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\* **EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include any copy of this form with next communication to applicant.